

creates a somewhat nervous atmosphere and condition, but this is gradually lessening and we do not now think very much about it either officers or men.

We sent the automobile around via Poperinghe to Captain Myers' camp, and began our inspection of Firing Trench of the East Poperinghe line where we join the 27th Division to Captain Myers camp which is near the northern boundary of our sector where we join a Belgian Division. The 119th and 120th Infantry are occupying the southern section of our sector, and the 117th and 118th Infantry the northern section. Each of these Regiments also have one battalion in the front line facing the Germans, and we (Engineers) have seven platoons in the front line and five working in the east Poperinghe Line. Six are working in the West Poperinghe line and six are at our Central Camp near Proven. The East Poperinghe firing line is in very good condition but has practically no shelter for the men. They are now beginning to build splinter proofs in the Parados. The bomb proofs are in the Support Line 100 to 300 yards in rear of the main firing line. Many of the infantry had constructed improvised shelters, which were placed in the most conspicuous places and offered little or no protection from shrapnel. One particular case was a shelter built facing the enemy so that its opening looked directly toward Mount Kemmel. All the protection against shrapnel was a single bag of dirt or thin sheet of corrugated iron.

At G4 b 7.4 where Lieutenant R. M. Williams is working his platoon on shelters, machine gun emplacements, there has been considerable shelling, especially early Saturday morning. The wire entanglement through which they pass to and from work had three large shells go through it (probably 12-inch shells). They made holes in the ground 15 to 20 feet across and 10 to 15 feet deep. During the shelling a British soldier who was in charge of a stable of five horses, and which was within the area being shelled, tried to get the horses out. He entered the stable and was leading out the horses when a shell struck the stable and killed the soldier and all the horses. The lead chain was clasped so tightly by the dead soldier that his fingers had to be pried loose before it could be removed.

Lieutenant William's platoon was delayed about an hour before they could enter the area. Just as they were ready to start through